Richmond Oct 8th 1852

Dear Sir

A poor woman residing in Rockbridge county Va, who is the widowed mother of a large family of children, owns a small peice of land, on which there is a mineral Spring, containing among other things a large amount of Alum . The waters of the Va Alum Springs are, as your are aware, in high repute for their medicinal qualities, and if this Spring should prove valuable, it will be a source of profit to the poor woman who is I learn a very estimable character . Now, I write you on the subject at the request of Mr Adie, who wishes to Know your most moderate terms of Analysis of the said water, taking into consideration the circumstances above mentioned .
She has Sent us about ten gallons of the water, which can be fowarded as you may direct in case you under=
=take the analysis . Perhaps Some one of your Students would like to undertake the analysis by way of improving themselves . Were I with you I should be glad of the opportunity, but as I am at present Situated, have not the facilities for So doing . As the gentleman from the ~~neighbourhood~~ neighbourhood of this Spring will leave the City next week (wednesday next) and wishes to return with Some definite in=
=formation on the Subject; I must get the favour of you to reply immediately .

I am pleased to hear that you have commenced with a full Class this fall, and congratulate you upon the fine lithographic portraits, one of which through the Kindness of Buck I am in possesion of . Please tell Buck I received his last, & wish him much Success in explor=
=~~ing~~ my old battle feild "Ergot" . Bye the way, I have Seen Winckler's paper on the Subject . My Kind regards to the Students Known to me, & Prof: Morfit .

Very truly yours
J Roberts. Baker

Oct. 8th 1852

J. Roberts Baker

Richmond

Va.